IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for classifying electronically posted documents, the method comprising:

receiving a first document and a second document;

generating a first metadata summary corresponding to said first document and a second metadata summary corresponding to the second document, wherein the first metadata summary includes a first summary sub-tree and the second metadata summary includes a second sub-tree and wherein a sub-tree includes a plurality of list items;

comparing the ~~structure~~ list items of the first summary sub-tree with the ~~structure~~ list items of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the ~~structures~~ list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the first summary sub-tree~~ each list item includes at least one attribute having ~~a first~~ an attribute value, ~~and wherein the second summary sub-tree includes at least one attribute having a second attribute value,~~ the method further comprising:

comparing ~~for each of the at least one attributes, the first and second attribute values~~ the attribute value of a list item of the first summary sub-tree with the attribute value of a list item of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the attribute values of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein a list item of the first summary sub-tree includes text content, and wherein a list item of the second summary sub-tree includes text content, the method comprising:

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comparing the text content included within the first and second summary sub-trees; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein <u>a list item of</u> the first summary sub-tree further includes text content, and wherein <u>a list item of</u> the second summary sub-tree includes text content, the method further comprising:

comparing the text content included within the first and second summary sub-trees; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content included within the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising identifying the first and second documents as duplicates if the text content within the <u>list items of the</u> first and second summary sub-trees are equivalent.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 5, further comprising removing the second metadata summary ~~from the first summary group~~ if the structures of the first and second summary sub-trees are equivalent ~~and if the first summary value is equivalent to the second summary value for each of the at least one attributes~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

defining a first equivalence metadata table comprising:

a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the ~~structures~~ <u>list items</u> of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises storing a zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the

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first equivalence metadata table ~~summary~~.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising:

defining a first equivalence metadata table comprising:

a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the attribute values of the list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises storing a zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the first equivalence metadata table ~~summary~~.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, further comprising:

defining a first equivalence metadata table comprising:

a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content of the list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises a storing of zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the first equivalence metadata table ~~summary~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for classifying electronically posted documents, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of documents;

generating a respective plurality of metadata summaries corresponding to the plurality of received documents;

grouping a first subset of the respective plurality of metadata summaries into a first summary group, the first summary group comprising summaries having a mime-

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type designation;

selecting a first metadata summary and a second metadata summary from the first summary group, wherein the first metadata summary includes a first summary sub-tree and the second metadata summary includes a second summary sub-tree and wherein a sub-tree includes a plurality of list items;

comparing the ~~structure~~ list items of the first summary sub-tree with the ~~structure~~ list items of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the ~~structures~~ list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the step of grouping further comprises grouping a second subset of the respective metadata summaries into a second summary group, the second summary group comprising summaries having a second mime-type designation.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for classifying electronically posted documents, the system comprising:

a metadata parser module coupled to receive electronically posted documents, the metadata parser configured to output respective metadata summaries, wherein each respective metadata summary comprises one or more sub-trees, wherein a sub-tree includes a plurality of list items and wherein a list item includes at least one attribute and at least one attribute value comprising text content ~~structures, one or more attributes, and content text~~;

a summary repository coupled to receive and store the respective metadata summaries; and

a summary consolidator coupled to the summary repository, the summary consolidator configured to compare the list items of sub-trees, identify metadata summaries as distinct if the list items of metadata summaries are not equivalent, and delete duplicate metadata summaries from the summary repository.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the summary consolidator comprises:

a sub-tree comparator configured to compare one or more sub-tree~~s~~ structures of the retrieved metadata summaries;

an attribute comparator configured to compare the attribute values of the list items of the sub-trees of the retrieved metadata summaries; and

a text comparator configured to compare the text content included within the attribute values of the list items of the sub-trees of the retrieved metadata summaries.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein the sub-tree comparator is configured to compare ~~the~~ a metadata portion of the metadata summary.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein the attribute comparator is configured to compare ~~the~~ attribute values included within the metadata portion of the metadata summary.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein the text comparator is configured to compare ~~the~~ text content included within the metadata portion of the metadata summary.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A program product for use in a computer system that executes program steps recorded in a computer-readable media to perform a method for classifying electronically posted documents, the program product comprising:

a record-able media;

a program of computer-readable instructions executable by the computer system to perform processes comprising:

receiving a first document and a second document;

generating a first metadata summary corresponding to said first document and a second metadata summary corresponding to the second document, wherein the first metadata summary includes a first summary sub-tree and the second metadata

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summary includes a second summary sub-tree and wherein a sub-tree includes a plurality of list items;

comparing the ~~structure~~ list items of the first summary sub-tree with the ~~structure~~ list items of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the ~~structures~~ list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The program product of claim 17, wherein ~~the first summary sub-tree~~ each list item includes at least one attribute having ~~a first~~ an attribute value, ~~and wherein the second summary sub-tree includes at least one attribute having a second attribute value,~~ the program product method further comprising the processes of:

comparing ~~for each of the at-least one attributes, the first and second attribute values~~ the attribute value of a list item of the first summary sub-tree with the attribute value of a list item of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the attribute values of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The program product of claim 18, wherein a list item of the first summary sub-tree includes text content, and wherein a list item of the second summary sub-tree includes text content, the program product further comprising the processes of:

comparing the text included within the first and second summary sub-trees; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The program product of claim 19, further comprising the method step of identifying the first and second documents as duplicates if the text content within the list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are equivalent.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The program product of claim 20, further comprising the process of removing the second metadata summary ~~from the first summary group~~.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The program product of claim 21, further comprising the processes of:

    defining a first equivalence metadata table comprising:

        a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

        a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

        a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

        a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content of the list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises storing a zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the equivalence metadata summary.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 18, further comprising the processes of:

    defining the first equivalence metadata table comprising:

        a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

        a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

        a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

        a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the attribute values of the list items of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises storing a zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the equivalence metadata summary.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 19, further comprising the processes of:

    defining a first equivalence metadata table comprising:

        a first row corresponding to the first metadata summary;

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a second row corresponding to the second metadata summary;

a first column corresponding to the first metadata summary; and

a second column corresponding to the second metadata summary, wherein the process of identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the text content of the <u>list items of the</u> first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent comprises storing a zero binary value in the first row and second column position of the equivalence metadata summary.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A program product for use in a computer system that executes program steps recorded in a computer-readable media to perform a method for classifying electronically posted documents, the program product comprising:

a record-able media;

a program of computer-readable instructions executable by the computer system to perform method steps comprising:

receiving a plurality of documents;

generating a respective plurality of metadata summaries corresponding to the plurality of received documents;

grouping a first subset of the respective plurality of metadata summaries onto a first summary group, the first summary group comprising summaries having a mime-type designation;

selecting a first metadata summary and a second metadata summary from the first summary group, wherein the first metadata summary includes a first summary sub-tree and the second metadata summary includes a second summary sub-tree <u>and wherein a sub-tree includes a plurality of list items</u>;

comparing the ~~structure~~ <u>list items</u> of the first summary sub-tree with the ~~structure~~ <u>list items</u> of the second summary sub-tree; and

identifying the first and second documents as distinct if the ~~structures~~ <u>list items</u> of the first and second summary sub-trees are not equivalent.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The program product of claim 25, wherein the step of grouping further comprises ~~the step of~~ grouping a second subset of the respective

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metadata summaries into a second summary group, the second summary group comprising summaries having a second mime-type designation.

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